

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 ACDA-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 NSC-05 MC-02 TRSE-00 SP-02 OMB-01

EB-07 /059 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:CWNAAS/BK

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.

S/S :JPMOFFAT

NEA/RA:COL. HOBBS

PM:COL. FARNHAM

ACDA:DR. FINEGOLD

DOD/ISA:R. KUBAL

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R 052255Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 104840

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MASS, IR

SUBJECT: GOI LANCE MISSILE REQUEST

REF: TEHRAN 3455

1. APPRECIATE HELPFUL EMBASSY ASSESSMENT (REFTEL) AND AGREE THAT, IN EFFORT TO HAVE REQUEST WITHDRAWN OR AT LEAST PUT ON BACK BURNER, ARMISH/MAAG SHOULD TAKE UP WITH SHAH OR APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL GOI REQUEST FOR INFO ON LANCE. WE WOULD NOT WISH SEND SPECIAL TEAM NOW (PARA 4 REFTEL) BUT WILLING RECONSIDER AT LATER DATE IF THIS PROCEDURE APPEARS USEFUL.

2. CHIEF ARMISH/MAAG MAY DRAW UPON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

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A. EACH BATTALION WOULD REQUIRE OVER 400 SKILLED OFFICERS AND MEN; ADDITIONAL NUMBERS WOULD BE NEEDED IN DEPOT MAINTENANCE AND LOGISTICS;

B. THIS WOULD BE EXCESSIVE DRAIN ON SKILLED MANPOWER IN TERMS OF MILITARY UTILITY OF WEAPON AND IN LIGHT OF MANPOWER SHORTAGES IN IRAN;

C. COSTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN FULLY CALCULATED HERE BUT A VERY ROUGH ESTIMATE IS THAT EQUIPMENT FOR EACH BATTALION, NOT INCLUDING SUPPORT AND TRAINING COSTS, WOULD GO WELL OVER 35 MILLION DOLS;

D. EACH MISSILE WOULD COST OVER 250 THOUSAND DOLS;

E. MISSILE HAS RANGE OF ONLY 43 MILES WITH 1000 POUND CONVENTIONAL WARHEAD;

F. STANDOFF AIRBORNE MISSILES ARE PERHAPS EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE AT MUCH LOWER COST AND WITH GREATER TARGETING FLEXIBILITY; AND

G. VERY FEW POTENTIAL TARGETS COME TO MIND WHICH WOULD REQUIRE USE OF LANCE AS OPPOSED TO HEAVY ARTILLERY OR AIRCRAFT.

3. FOR THESE REASONS, THE U.S. IS NOT ACQUIRING CONVENTIONAL VERSION OF LANCE.

4. SHOULD ABOVE POINTS NOT BE FULLY PERSUASIVE, YOU MAY NOTE THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WILL BE PREPARED TO GO INTO GREATER DETAIL NEXT MONTH WHEN THE SHAH VISITS WASHINGTON. KISSINGER

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